

9 February 2011 --
Freund's Farm, Inc.
Benjamin and Matthew Freund
324 Norfolk Road
East Canaan, CT 06024

Chairman Roy, Chairman Meyer and members of the Environment Committee:

I am testifying against SB No. 838, an act concerning wildlife management and lands classified as farm lands.

My brother Matthew and I own and operate a 270 cow dairy farm in East Canaan, CT. We own 450 acres and rent 400 additional acres. The acres rented are very important to our dairy farm. Landlords are incented, by PA 490, to maintain agricultural lands in production to qualify for favorable property tax rates. Those rates are based on agricultural use. The amount of land available for us to rent would be much less if those same productive lands qualified for an equal treatment under wildlife management. Rented land is critical to our commercial dairy and we could not produce milk without the additional acres. We need sufficient land to grow forages for our cows. We need the land that PA 490 makes available to us.
Please defeat SB No. 838.

Respectfully submitted,
Benjamin Freund